

"Those who bring
sunshine to the lives of
others cannot keep it
from themselves."

-James Barrie

Donald T. DiFrancesco
Acting Governor

Jane M. Kenny
Commissioner

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Community Matters

A Newsletter for the Employees of the Department of Community Affairs

VIEWPOINT

Nice Work

by Commissioner Jane M. Kenny

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the DCA employees who helped make "Building Our Future Day" at DCA a rousing success.

I have received excellent reviews of the planning, coordination and execution of the day's program.

It was no easy task to fill an entire day with interesting activities for children of different ages. But the committee, chaired by **Glenda Simmons**, the chaperones and everyone else involved did an outstanding job of making it fun for the kids to learn about the various aspects of DCA.

The department also would like to express its appreciation to the individuals and organizations outside of DCA who contributed to the program.

If the goal was to give the children a favorable impression of the work we do and the people who work here, it was a mission accomplished.

The children got a glimpse of how the grownups in their lives spend their time away from home. They learned about the importance of our work. And they heard that we do a lot of good things at DCA, all of them connected in some way to helping people and keeping people safe – a message that resonates with any audience.

Thank you again for the time and effort you invested in our "future."



DCA Shows Its Stuff

Building Our Future Day a Success

Children of DCA employees were treated to a day of information, activities, demonstrations and souvenir goodies on August 2 as part of the department's Building Our Future Day.

A total of 65 children between the ages of 7 and 15 participated in the daylong program coordinated by **Glenda Simmons** and a committee of 14 DCA employees.

The reviews of the program by children and adults alike were outstanding.

"If the goal was to give the children a favorable impression of the work we do and the people who work here, it was a mission accomplished," DCA Commissioner Jane M. Kenny wrote in her Viewpoint column on this page.

Said Glenda, "The children enjoyed it and got a lot out of it."

The children, grouped by age, were brought by their chaperones to designated rooms throughout the building to learn about the role of DCA in state government.

DCA's divisions and offices prepared activities to make the program fun and informative. The Trenton Fire Department, the American Red Cross, Michael Gowdy of the Secretary of State's Office and others also contributed to the success of the program.

The DCA activities included:

- **Fire Safety** – The American Red Cross crawl-through trailer was used to show children how to escape during a fire. The Trenton Fire Department had a fire truck parked on the side of the building for tours and demonstrations.
- **Housing and Community Resources** – Two "treasure hunt" activities were offered. The younger children had to find resources to assist a "disabled" teddy bear find a home through the Homelessness Prevention Program and the Housing Affordability Service. The older children, playing the role of housing developers, had to find resources to deal with problems in building new affordable homes or rehabilitating older buildings. At the end of the exercise, the children in the younger group had their teddy bear apply for a home built by children in the older group.
- **Women** – A video on women and their successes.
- **Codes and Standards** – The children watched a video and presentation on carnival and amusement park safety.
- **Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development** – A five-minute presentation on the Center was given along with a children's performance of Latin American music and dance.
- **Local Government Services** – A "Futuretown" interactive computer activity was performed.
- **Human Resources** – A mock interview was demonstrated.
- **Internal Services** – The younger children prepared their own certificates,

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Name Change

Acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco this week signed legislation changing the name of the former Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission to the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission.

Officials said the word "development" in the former name did not properly reflect the commission's charge to protect, preserve and enhance the Meadowlands wilderness and ensure that any permitted development be both orderly and environmentally compatible.

"Our former name often created a misperception that we facilitate development at the expense of the environment," said DCA Commissioner Jane M. Kenny, who serves as commission chairman. "Our new name appropriately identifies us as a regulatory agency responsible for all planning and zoning decisions affecting the Meadowlands District."

DCA Funds Head Start

The DCA-affiliated New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA) has approved additional funding for the construction of a new Trenton Head Start facility near the Battle Monument in Trenton.

DCA Commissioner Jane M. Kenny, who also serves as chairman of the NJRA board, said an additional \$140,000 has been approved through the Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative to fund unanticipated site-related costs.

The NJRA had already approved more than \$3.8 million in funding for construction of the three-story building on the corner of Pennington Avenue and North Warren Street, facing the Battle Monument. The site is in the heart of the Canal Banks neighborhood, which was one of the first areas designated for assistance by the state's Urban Coordinating Council in 1995. The new facility will house all of the Trenton Head Start programs and administrative offices. It will also include parking and a play area.

The Trenton Head Start initiative provides educational, health and social service programs to 352 pre-school children, ages 3-5, and their families.

Funds OK'd for Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club in Camden County will be getting its first club facility thanks to the DCA-affiliated New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA).

The NJRA approved \$1.5 million in financing to help construct the facility in the Parkside section of Camden.

Commissioner Kenny said the authority's financing would be used along with \$4.7 million in funding from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority to make the project a reality.

The project includes the construction of a 33,700 square foot facility to house a swimming pool, gymnasium, educational center, game room, fine arts areas, teen room and support areas, as well as renovation of a 2,400 square foot building for administrative offices. The facility will provide programs for youths between the ages of 6 and 18, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

The location of the facility at the corner of Park Boulevard and Bellevue Avenue in the Parkside section of Camden is considered ideal because of its proximity to six public schools, including Camden High School, Farnham Park and a residential neighborhood.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America's tradition of service to the nation's youth began in 1860, when the first club was established in Hartford. Since then, the organization has grown to serve some three million youth annually in more than 2,065 clubs across the country. The Boys & Girls Club of Camden County was established in 1998.

Intern Class Urged To Stay Involved

Deputy Commissioner **Anthony Cancro** urged the graduating class of summer interns from DCA's Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development (CHPRD) to stay involved in community and public service.

"I hope your experience will shape your future involvement in the public sector or community service arena," said Anthony. "The challenge and opportunities, particularly in our cities, have never been greater. We need talented, educated people committed to social change to help us make a difference. And there's no better group than yours to answer the call."

A total of 34 Latino college students completed the 10-week Hispanic Interns in Community Service Program/Latino Leaders Fellowship Institute. The initiative is sponsored by the CHPRD in collaboration with Rutgers University's Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership in Camden.

The program and institute offer Latino students the opportunity to enrich their college experience by exposing them to career opportunities in state government and the non-profit and private sectors. In addition, the students participate in a series of weekly sessions that help prepare, motivate and empower them for professional positions in public services as well as positions of leadership.

More than 360 Latino college students have participated in the initiative since its creation in 1991.

"Thanks to the support of the public and private sponsors and the hard work of the CHPRD and its director, Angie Armand, these students have enjoyed a wide variety of work experiences and have developed the skills needed to become tomorrow's Hispanic leaders," said DCA Commissioner Kenny.

Training Required

In keeping with the goals of Acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco to remove harassment and discrimination from the workplace, Commissioner Kenny is requiring all DCA employees to receive sexual harassment training.

All managers and supervisors will attend a three-hour training class. The training will be conducted by the Department of Personnel and will be held in the William Ashby Building. All non-supervisory employees will be given an interactive CD-ROM with instructions. You will be able to access this CD-ROM at your workstation or a designated training room.

All training will be scheduled through your division training coordinator. Completion of training will be tracked via the Statewide Training and Development Information System through the Department of Personnel. Employees will receive a Continuing Education Certificate upon successful completion of the training.

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DCA's GovConnect to Link Agencies

Public agencies in New Jersey are about to get a new resource to help them work more efficiently.

DCA's Division of Local Government Services is ready to debut GovConnect – a computer-based system for sharing information and increasing productivity among state and local governments, school districts and other public agencies.

Six years in the making, GovConnect will take advantage of the Internet and other advanced communication technologies to link governments in New Jersey.

The system is designed to be part of the state's customized information portal, <http://my.state.nj.us>, where organizations and individuals can find a host of services and applications to enhance the way they interact with the state and each other.

The roll out of GovConnect has begun, with sign-up packages sent to municipal and county officials.

According to **Marc Pfeiffer** of the Division of Local Government Services, GovConnect will change the way government does business in New Jersey, making it more efficient, cheaper and faster.

Midday Refresher Stretches

By Armand Tecco, M.Ed., Reprinted from Drkoop.com

If you experience a slump in the middle of your day, you may get a second wind by performing these two beginner-friendly yoga moves. The simple routine only takes a few minutes but help refresh you for the rest of the day.

Arm Stretch

- ✍ Stand straight, arms by your sides, palms facing in.
- ✍ Turn you palms up, reaching out to the sides and sweeping your arms up toward the ceiling, inhaling deeply as you stretch.
- ✍ Envision reaching for renewed energy and vitality.
- ✍ Turn your palms down as you bring your arms back down to your sides.
- ✍ Exhale completely and image you are releasing the fatigue and stress.
- ✍ Repeat three to five times.

Chest Expander

- ✍ Stand straight and roll your shoulders up, down and back, releasing tension.
- ✍ Next, clasp your hands behind you and stretch your arms back.
- ✍ Lift your chest as you inhale deeply. Imagine that you are breathing in energy and vitality.
- ✍ Exhale your fatigue and stress as you bring your arms back to a resting position.
- ✍ Repeat three to five times.

Additional Points to Remember

- ✍ Perform the exercises two to three times per week on non-consecutive days.
- ✍ Perform the exercises in a slow and controlled manner.
- ✍ Maintain normal breathing and stop if the exercises cause pain.

A League of Their Own



Pro Players Featured At Equality Day Event

Two New Jersey women who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League in the 1940s and 1950s were featured guests at a Women's Equality Day event sponsored by DCA's Division on Women on August 19 at Mercer County Waterfront Park.

Jane Moffet of Pitman, Gloucester County, and Ernestine "Teen" Petras of Wanaque, Passaic County, greeted fans, shared experiences from their playing days and joined Division on Women Director **Linda Bowker** in throwing out the first pitch at the day's Trenton Thunder game.

Jane Moffet played from 1949 to 1952 for the Kalamazoo, Michigan, Lassies. Ernestine "Teen" Petras played from 1944 to 1952 for the Grand Rapid, Michigan, Chicks.

"These women were pioneers," said DCA Commissioner Jane M. Kenny. "They contributed to the history of sports and the history of this country."

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, featured in the 1992 movie, "A League of Their Own," was established in 1943 at a time when many of the nation's male baseball players were serving in World War II. The league continued until 1954.

Women's Equality Day commemorates the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution granting a women's right to vote, which was certified on August 26, 1920.

Theresa Daniels of the Division on Women was instrumental in setting up the Waterfront Park event.

Letters of the Month

"I don't know if you remember talking to me on the phone one cold night in December. I do, and I will never forget our conversation, telling you about all the difficulties I was having. I had just become a single mom and trying to support a child and myself in college, while trying to live in this most expensive state. You and Pauline (Chisolm) have made it possible for me to do just what I thought would be an impossible mission for me.

"You both have helped me obtain a beautiful and affordable place to live, and I will never forget the both of you for helping me so much. You have such

a rare gift of patience, listening and understanding, a quality that is so hard to find these days. I am learning to be more like you every day.

"In a couple of years, I will have my degree in Science and Agriculture at 55 years old and my daughter will have her degree from Notre Dame University – a goal that I never thought could be possible. With the help of the affordable housing and with wonderful people like you, goals can be accomplished. The both of you will always be in my heart. Thank you." **Letter to Mario Diaz and**

Pauline Chisolm of DCA's Housing Affordability Service from Joanne Boutsikaris of Warren.

"Kudos to you and your staff for a wonderful, successful and educational conference last week in Newark. We appreciated the opportunity to participate and share HUD's faith-based initiatives." **E-Mail to El-Rhonda Williams Alston of DCA's Faith Based Community Development Program from Fannie J. Woods of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.**



Community Building News

Did you know that you may now access past issues of Community Matters 2000 and 2001 through DCA's Home Page? Once you are in the Home Page, click on the small box within the heading titled "DCA Library" and you will see a list of past issues. Just click on the issue that you would like to read.

The PR Committee thanks everyone who takes the time out of their busy schedule to read through Community Building News. We welcome your suggestions and comments or if you should have an article to contribute, please contact any one of the following committee members: **Peggy Fritz, Pat Fowler, Ethel Henderson, Jim Cordingley** or **Vicky Jones**.

Question Results

August's Question – Have you had a chance to check out DCA's Home Page? What would you like to see included or do you have any suggestions for improvement?

There was some confusion surrounding this question. It should have stated that we were referring to the Intra-Net site rather than the Internet site, but it worked out fine because we received suggestions for both.

A number of employees asked if directions to the building could be included. Well, we checked with **Guy Lebo** who reports that they are in the process of linking to MapQuest, where a potential visitor can type in his/her address and directions will be provided. We will keep you posted.

It was also suggested that Human Resources have a section where employees could go for information on eye exam reimbursements, deferred comp, discount ticket information and other items.

Computer Tips Corner

Need to see what conference rooms are available? Follow these six short steps.



- Click on arrow next to the "New" Icon.
- Click on meeting request.
- Click on To – Type in the box above the list conf.
- Hold down SHIFT and click on the last conference room to highlight the entire list.
- Click on Resources to add all conference rooms to the resources list.
- Click on Ok.

Did you know that you could access the HRDI Catalog online? Just follow these easy steps:

- Select "My New Jersey Page."
- Under NJ State Government, select Department of Personnel.
- Select Job Training-HRDI.

Want a list of the courses and credits you've taken and received through HRDI? Once on the DOP site, simply click on "Student Training Transcripts Online."

Who was this Cutie Pie???



If you guessed **Joanne Slezak**, who works for Assistant Commissioner **Chuck Richman**, you are correct.

Joanne started working for DCA in the Office of Program Analysis (Grants Management) in September 1976 through the Cooperative Education Work Program, which allowed her to attend St. Anthony's High School in the morning while working in the afternoons. Since that time, Joanne has worked for Program Analysis, Management Services, Officer of the

Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner.

Joanne resides in Moorestown with her husband Leon and her son, Joseph, eight.

Roundtable/Recommendations Update

Recommendation – Institute regular monthly presentations by Bureau/Division staff on the different DCA programs.

Each month, a Division will choose and showcase a major program area for those employees interested in learning more about the activities of that office. The goal is to ensure that all employees have an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the overall mission of the Department. The first presentation will be made by **Sheri Smith**, Office of Fiscal Affairs on September 6 in Room 129 from 2-3 p.m.

The Family Works/Employee Interaction Committee is in the process of putting the final touches on this recommendation. A complete schedule will be available within the next month.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 5 "Dealing with Loss/Illness" Room 129; 12pm
- Sept. 6 "Fiscal: Travel Reimbursement Discussion" Room 129; 2-3pm
- Sept. 25 "Delivering Successful Presentations" Room 521; 12:15 & 1:15
- Oct. 3 "Financial Planning for College" Room 129; 12pm

DCA Shows Its Stuff...continued

while the older children created a website.

■ **Council on Affordable Housing** – A GIS map demonstration was presented. Members of Glenda's committee included: **Dana Foraker, Sandra Santiago, Pamela Schnoering, Jim Cordingley, Kathy Dawson, Karen Luckie, Joy Murl, Marisol Meyer, Mickey Richardson, Bryce Rudolph, Karen Schwacha, Laurie Snyder, Lucille Ventres** and **Doris Windle**.

Chaperones included: **Ivette Edwards, Nicole Burton, Mickey Richardson, Renee Jenkins, Carol Tillson, Pamela Schnoering, Barbara Newsome, Suzanne Pinto, John Catalano, Bill James, Rich Greenberg** and **Joan Lorenzo**.

The committee offered special thanks to **Ivette Edwards, Jackie Welsh, Guy Lebo, Melissa Young, Woody Sisco** and his staff, and all who helped with the day's activities.